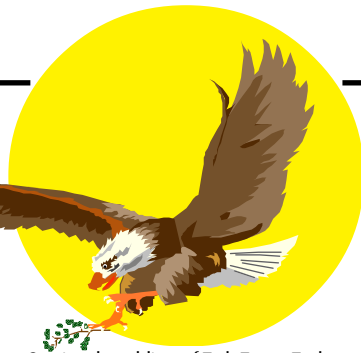


# THE TALON

Operation Joint Endeavor, Bosnia-Herzegovina



SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

## Task force honors fallen comrades

By Capt. JOHN GOHEEN  
29th MPAD

Task Force Eagle soldiers paused for a few minutes Monday to honor those who have fallen — including two of their own — in service to our nation.

"In faraway places with names often too difficult to pronounce, these soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines lived constantly in the shadow of danger and death," said Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, task force commander, in remarks during a 35-minute Memorial Day ceremony at Eagle Base's 21 Club.

He told the 250 people gathered of an inscription he once saw at Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place for thousands of U.S. servicemembers.

*"... in simple obedience to duty ... these men sacrificed all."*

— Maj. Gen. William L. Nash

"Not for fame or reward, not for place or rank, not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity," he said it read, "but in simple obedience to duty as they understand it, these men suffered all, sacrificed all, dared all — and died."

Nash also spoke of Memorial Day's origins. "One hundred twenty-eight years ago," Nash said, "after the bloodiest war our country ever fought, we began to officially remember and honor the Civil War dead by placing flags and flowers on their graves — it was

see *Memorial*, page 3

## Iron Eagles



Sgt. Ken Glenville

Two 6th Squadron, 6th Air Cavalry AH-64A Apache helicopters from Illesheim, Germany, fly familiarization missions over northern Bosnia-Herzegovina. (See related story, page 9.)

## 1st BCT adds Apaches

By Sgt. 1st Class STEVEN M. THIESE  
358th MPAD

HAMPTON BASE — The world's most lethal rotary aircraft is on the prowl over the 1st Brigade Combat Team's area of operations.

Eight AH-64A Apaches helicopters joined the 1st Brigade this month when Troop C "Lighthouse," 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry, 11th Air Cavalry Regiment from Illesheim, Germany, replaced Troops D, E and F, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

The three 1-1 Cavalry units are en route to the United States to exchange their old AH-1 Cobra Gunships and OH-58D reconnaissance

helicopters for Kiowa Warriors. Pilots and their crews will remain for about a year to training on their new aircraft.

First Cavalry aircraft patrolled the skies over the zone of separation since December. Their missions are now performed by the Apaches.

"The Apache is the Army's most powerful helicopter," said Capt. Tom Spencer, assistant 1st Armored Division aviation officer. "With its day and night capabilities and its long-range optics, it has the ability to see and shoot a long way. The Apache gives the 1st Brigade a true combat multiplier."

Col. Gregory Fontenot, 1st Brigade commander, believes the air

cavalry is a key player on his team.

"Army aviation is in its element in this kind of operation," he said. "The Cobras have been critical and, in some instances, decisive to the operation ... The capabilities of the Apaches are phenomenal. Thus, the air cavalry will remain a key part of the verification process, and of our ability to assure compliance of the factions inside the ZOS."

Troop C, 6-6 Cavalry is not the only Task Force Eagle aviation unit flying the Apache.

The 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, part of the 4th Air Cavalry Brigade at Comanche Base, also boasts the attack helicopter.

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## From the top

# Retention of good soldiers is priority #1

Retention is everybody's business, and the business of retention is good in Task Force Eagle.

Task force career counselors are now touting an excellent benefit — tax-free reenlistment bonuses.

The initial 50 percent payment — plus any future annual increments — are tax-exempt, said Sgt. Maj. Luis Santos, Task Force Eagle command career counselor.

You can't beat that with a stick.

Bonuses of up to \$20,000 are now being offered.

But, while bonuses are nice, I believe most soldiers reenlist for other reasons, and they usually have very little to do with mon-



**Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley**  
1st Armored Division

ey. I recently picked up a column by Col. Gregory Fontenot, 1st Brigade commander. His view on reenlistment was that of an older soldier with 25 years of service.

Fontenot said the U.S. Army is an army of ideas.

"Chiefly, it is an army devoted to the defense of a great idea — the United States Constitution. Service in our Army, then, is dedicated to the idea that, as free people, we are endowed by our creator with inalienable rights. I like that it makes me feel like we belong to something good and noble and motivates me more than even our flag."

Patriotism is something sol-

diers may not often discuss, but serving our country is dear to our hearts. We, more than anyone, know that "freedom isn't free."

Professional soldiers have made a commitment to their country. They dedicate their lives to preserving freedom.

And, according to our career counselors, the best time for soldiers to investigate reenlistment options is nine months prior to their ETS date.

At that time, counselors can explain what is available, including the options of changing a Military Occupational Specialty or reenlisting for a state-side or overseas post.

It's good for a soldier to check into reenlistment options early because certain options — or even MOSs — may not be available. For example, right now

there are too many 13Bs (cannon crew members) so there is a hold on reenlisting for that MOS. As a result, 13Bs must now reclassify to another MOS.

Reenlistment statistics for the third quarter are looking good. For soldiers reenlisting for the first time, 117 of 148 — or 79 percent of the task force's objective — reenlisted, as of May 25. For soldiers reenlisting for the second or subsequent time, 88 of 140 — or 63 percent of the objective — reenlisted. The quarter ends June 30.

Commanders have the overall responsibility for reenlisting soldiers, but the entire NCO Corps should be involved in the process — from the squad leader on up.

It's to everyone's advantage to keep fine troops in the ranks.

## Viewpoint

# Bosnia Promise Keepers uphold moral standards

The other day I met with a small group of men affiliated with our chapel program.

The hot topic of discussion was personal integrity. Much of the very animated talk centered on the lack of moral and ethical behavior in our nation.

Among the subjects discussed were the recent cheating scandals at our military service academies.

They have caused many to wonder how this could happen in the greatest military on Earth.

It's not just the military acad-



**Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth Kolenbrander**  
Deputy Division Chaplain

emies that are struggling to maintain moral and ethical codes.

Many of our public and private schools have similar problems. It was also noted that white collar crimes are on the rise across the country. Our small group also remarked how the institution

of holy matrimony is not held in as high esteem as in the past.

Promise Keepers is the name of our small chapel-sponsored group.

The Promise Keeper movement is a nondenominational approach to small group men's

ministry that is quickly spreading across the United States.

It also a growing part of many chapel activities in Task Force Eagle.

Our God is a God of promises and One who always sticks to His word.

Many of us have heard and believed His promises and found them to be faithful and dependable in every situation.

This is very comforting in a world that often doesn't honor a person's word or handshake as a binding agreement anymore.

It's nice to know that in a world of uncertainty, God has a clear and certain word that will never fail.

Our little group has been a source of encouragement and

accountability for many of us who try hard to make our word our bond, regardless of cost.

We concluded that personal integrity is very important in our lives, regardless of our station in life.

These same Bosnia Promise Keepers have also tried to live an exemplary lifestyle that other soldiers could emulate.

A side benefit in the group has been stronger relationships with fellow soldiers and greater commitment to our families through prayers, even though we are currently separated.

If you are interested, we have room for more members within the many Promise Keeper groups meeting in 10 different base camps.

## THE TALON

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## Memorial

from page 1

called Decoration Day.

"... It (the day) took on a broad meaning over time," Nash added. "Eventually, the name was changed to Memorial Day, and it became a time to remember those who died in later wars as well — to remind ourselves that the freedoms we enjoy were not secured without a great cost."

The task force commander's remarks followed the Eagle Base Gospel Choir's emotional performance of a Civil War hymn.

The 20-voice group joined lead singer, Spc. Elemenia L. Johnson of the 501st Military Police Company, in a stirring rendition of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," with its foot-taping, chorus of "Glory, Glory Hallelujah."

"I always get a joyous feeling when I sing that song," said Johnson, a Stockton, Calif., native.

Nash removed glasses and wiped his eyes following the hymn. He later gave

Johnson a coveted Task Force Eagle coin.

"Next year," he said with a smile, "I want to speak before the choir."

The ceremony also included prayers for peace here in six different faiths: Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian.

Nash concluded his remarks by referring to the list of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice as "the roll call of honor."

"And we have added two names of our own," he said. "Sgt. 1st Class Donald Dugan of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and Spc. Floyd Bright of the 2nd Battalion, 68th Armor."

"They died in the service of their nation, pursuing a noble cause — peace in Bosnia," Nash said.

"Today, we remember them."

The ceremony closed with the haunting sounds of "Taps" — performed by buglers Staff Sgt. Hermangildo Rodriguez, 1st Armored Division Band and Chap. (Capt.) Steve George, 5th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery — echoing through the old warehouse.

# DoD adviser applauds TFE's Reserve Component soldiers

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE  
29th MPAD

Reserve component soldiers have integrated successfully with active-duty forces and allied nation soldiers in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, said the Defense Department's top advisor on reserve matters.

"It's been a spectacular job on everyone's part getting everybody here," Terrence O'Connell, chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, said on May 22 at Eagle Base, Tuzla. "Morale is high and people are keen on their mission. Integration is being accomplished here."

O'Connell heads the independent Pentagon board created by Congress in 1952 to advise the defense secretary on matters dealing with Reserve Component issues and to report to Congress on the troops integration activities.

He met with Guard members and Reservists from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Kansas at Eagle Base and visited the Nordic-Polish Brigade headquarters in Doboj to assess progress since the deployment began.

"Everything I have seen and heard is very positive," he said.

His Doboj visit was a follow-up to the time he spent with Detachment 1, 28th Field Artillery out of Hershey, Pa., at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany in February.

The 28th mobilized with volunteers from throughout Pennsylvania, formed a derivative unit and within 45 days was on

the ground in Bosnia-Herzegovina with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery supporting the Nordic-Polish Brigade in the western portion of Task Force Eagle's area of responsibility.

The unit faced several challenges: integrating within a multinational brigade; adjusting to foreign military doctrines, equipment, fuel and spare parts and logistics systems; doing different risk assessments for mine threats; and dealing with a different language and culture.

O'Connell later met six U.S. Air Force reservists of the 4100th Group (Provisional) out of Ramstein Air Base.

The six filled slots in the Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility for which no active-duty airmen were available, said Col. Dick Rozier, group commander.

As nurses and medical technicians, they ensure patients being airlifted from Eagle Base to larger medical facilities are stable enough to fly. They also provide in-flight care.

"From our own experience," said Rozier, "We find no difference in the way they (reservists) do the job. The quality of the people, the dedication and the professionalism are all there."

The Balkans deployment compared well with the Saudi Arabia and Haiti operations because the military had applied lessons it learned, O'Connell said.

"We have improved each time," he said. "This is evolutionary, not just in terms of integration but also in understanding the unique problems that the reservist faces. It's a lot more work and effort for a Reserve Component member to be in the military."

## News briefs

### Gospel fest scheduled

A gospel extravaganza featuring choirs from six Task Force Eagle base camps will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at Club 21 on Eagle Base.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Leonard Ashford at 551-4102 or 558-5825.

### Privileges for reservists

Families of Reserve and National Guard members mobilized for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR have full-time commissary shopping privileges, Defense Commissary Agency officials announced.

Normally, Reserve members not on active duty may shop only 12 times a year at a commissary.

DCA agency spokesman Tim Ford said commissary privileges will provide a non-pay benefit designed to ease the financial strain of those called to active duty.

Eligible family members need only show their identification card and a set of their sponsor's orders verifying active duty status.

### Armor conference set

The 1996 Armor Conference and Armor Trainer Update will take place next week at Fort Knox, Ky.

This annual event will feature Gen. Ronald Griffith, Army vice chief of staff; Gen. William Hartzog, commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command; and Lt. Gen. John Abrams, commander, V Corps.

The theme for this year's event is "Training the Mounted Force in Transition." The conference and update includes Force XXI demonstrations, contractor's displays and presentations on training for the digital force and brigade operations in Task Force Eagle.

### Displaying 'Old Glory'

The Task Force Eagle command has banned the display of flags on vehicles.

This has raised the question of hanging flags inside of vehicles.

Allied Rapid Reaction Corps policy prohibits flags or any other banner that identifies the nationality of the vehicle.

Therefore, if someone can see the flag inside the vehicle while standing outside and looking in, the flag ban policy has been violated. Soldiers should not hang flags in front of windows or behind the windshield.





## ARTILLERY ROARS AT GLAMOC RANGE

By Spc. CESAR G. SORIANO  
29th MPAD

**F**IRE MISSION! FIRE MISSION! The call goes out on the radio and the normally quiet camp suddenly jumps into action.

A cloud of dust rises as four M-109 self-propelled howitzers appear out of nowhere and rumble downrange. The howitzers stop and maneuver into a straight line. Soldiers jump out and anchor the vehicles and

align the guns. The air fills with a roar and the ground shakes as the giant cannons launch a volley of rounds into a hillside.

Similar live-fire scenarios were executed last week as the first 1st Armored Division artillery unit rotated through a new artillery range in Glamoc in IFOR's British sector.

Nearly 625 square kilometers in size, the range offers soldiers ample space to maneuver and fire.

First Platoon, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery became that first U.S. unit to use the range. Before the end of the summer, every 1st AD artillery unit will visit the range.

In addition to howitzers, soldiers also qualified on M-16s rifles, .50-caliber machine guns, squad automatic weapons, mortars and other weapons.

Over the course of the exercise, soldiers fired 300 artillery shells.

"I thought we were going to come (to Bosnia) and lose our edge, but they haven't lost a step," said Col. Alan W.

Thrasher, 1st Armored Division Artillery commander, who attended the exercise. "This platoon can go anywhere, do anything."

The exercises also tested Q-37 Firefinder Radar operators, infantry mortarmen and fire support observers. A number of support personnel were also involved, including mechanics and medics.

On May 23, combat medics Sgt. Darnel Gresham and Spc. Mark Munoz helped save the life of a Croatian pilot who crashed his light aircraft on the range. Gresham, 23, of Albuquerque, N.M., and Munoz, 23, of the Philippines, treated the pilot on the scene, then transported him in their ambulance to a local hospital.

"This has been the best training since I've been in Bosnia," said Sgt. Larry Thomas of Alden, Minn. Thomas, a forward observer, who is affectionately called "Eyes of Death" by his troops.

During the exercise, "We simulate not only a high-intensity conflict but also situations which might arise here in Bos-



A cloud of smoke and dust billows from an M-109 self-propelled howitzer.



Far left: Spc. Travis Difree peeks out from the gunner's turret of his M-109 self-propelled howitzer; left: Sgt. Terry Daniels carries a 155mm live round to his howitzer, nicknamed Ballistic, in preparation for firing; Howitzers stir up a cloud of dust as they thunder down-range at Glamoc.

*Photos by Spc. Cesar G. Soriano*



nia," Thrasher said.

One of the hardest tasks has been the upkeep of vehicle maintenance, Thrasher said. He explained that since deployment began, units have tripled the average yearly mileage of each vehicle.

Maintaining soldiers' health is also of the utmost concern. Every soldier received a quick physical before coming to the range.

The British built and first used the range in February. Local Bosnian Croat Army and community officials were instrumental in the range's construction, Thrasher said. It is located on a hillside near an abandoned village that was destroyed in the war.

Although rotating units will spend only a week in Glamoc, six Headquarters DIVARTY soldiers will remain based in Glamoc to act as liaisons between the visiting U.S. units and their British hosts.

"We're basically here for support. If the unit training needs anything, they call us up," said Pfc. Daniel G. Thomas of Fort Smith, Ark. "We report

back to the rear, collect mission data for DIVARTY and schedule all range activities with the British range control."

Throughout the day, the howitzers are kept on the move. As dusk falls, the teams prepare to fire 1 million-candlepower illumination rounds. As the sun sets over the horizon of the mountain range, the command is given to commence fire.

The crew of howitzer team "Ballistic," commanded by Sgt. Terry Daniels of Fayetteville, N.C., shoots a half-dozen of the bright rounds over the range.

When the round reaches its predetermined altitude, it deploys a parachute and the illumination round floats to the ground, lighting the range like an early morning sunrise.

"This is a blast," said Pfc. Livacy Faciane, a 24-year-old San Francisco native, as he screwed a primer on a shell. The gunner for Team Ballistic said, "This breaks the monotony.

"Even though we have a lot of alerts and drills at Lodgment Area Lisa, there's nothing like coming out and live-firing."

## Comanche Base hosts safety awareness day

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE  
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — Staff Sgt. Don Robinson deliberately knocked over a stack of rag-filled bags by swinging his 7 1/2-ton crane too swiftly.

Staff Sgt. Richard Caldwell purposely started a fire outside the clamshell on the flight line here.

Inside the clamshell, Staff Sgt. Richard Bryan Lemke dangled a long-nosed viper that he said soldiers should learn to recognize.

All were making a point to the soldiers of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation: The sustainment phase of a fast-paced deployment was no time to get complacent about safety.

Their demonstrations were part of Company D's Safety Day, a series of classes designed to call soldiers' attention to using equipment properly, thereby safeguarding their lives. "Safety is a force protection and mission accomplishment imperative," said Lemke, the company's safety noncommissioned officer. "We need to take everybody back from this operation alive and with all their extremities.

"To die in combat is honorable," he said, "but to die from safety neglect is stupidity."

Unit leaders covered topics ranging from weapons handling to heat injury prevention.

In a crane operators' class, Robinson showed the correct way to use lifting devices. The empty 200-pound deployment box he swung could injure someone if handled carelessly.

Caldwell, a firefighter with the 369th Engineer Platoon, lit the fires so soldiers could practice using fire extinguishers.

The dead snake Lemke held at arm's length on a coat hanger was one of four poisonous varieties coming out of hibernation here.

Topics also included the location of fire extinguishers, electrical grounding points, eye-wash stations and hearing protection inside the hangar, where Company D maintains 2nd Battalion's Apache attack helicopter fleet.

"Aviation is inherently dangerous," Lemke said. "When you work around this kind of equipment, there's no room for complacency."

Units throughout the 4th Air Cavalry Brigade are scheduled to hold a Safety Day in accordance with U.S. Army Europe directives.

"We incorporate safety into everything that we do," said 1st Sgt. Ronnie Garrett. "We tie it all together and it all culminates in Safety Day to reflect upon the importance of safety as a combat multiplier.

"The more safe we are, the more effective the unit can be by trying to save its resources and safeguarding its soldiers. Soldiers are our most treasured commodity," he said.



*Spc. George Roache*

Soldiers attend a crane safety class.



# MULE SKINNERS'



Spc. Bryan Driver

A Heavy Equipment Transporter drops off a MILVAN storage container in Lukavac.

## Division Support

By Spc. BRYAN DRIVER  
1st AD Public Affairs Office

The 1st Armored Division Support Command provides the beans, bullets and batteries used by Task Force Eagle to enforce the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The soldiers of DISCOM, nicknamed "Mule Skinners," are headquartered at Lukavac, also known as "Camp Punxatawney" or "Gotham City."

The brigade has 60 subordinate units with more than 2,000 soldiers assigned to providing the task force direct support.

Several of the larger units are the 47th and 501st Forward Support Battalions, the 123rd Main Support Battalion and the 127th Aviation Support Battalion.

The 47th and 501st FSBs provide maintenance, medical and supply support to the forward deployed combat units.

The FSBs also have water purification teams.

The 123rd MSB located at Lukavac operates the Class II and IV supplies out of the "Silver Dome," a giant warehouse at the camp.



Master Sgt. Phillip Wolke

Heavy Equipment Transporter trailers haul M-109 self-propelled howitzers to the range in Glamoc.



A DISCO  
Lukavac



Protecti



# ort Command

The 123rd also operates most of DISCOM's transportation assets, hauling supplies throughout the Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR theater of operations.

The 127th ASB provides maintenance support, and supplies and services to the 4th Air Cavalry Brigade at Comanche Base.

Other units provide preventative medicine, fire fighting, and mental and dental health services.

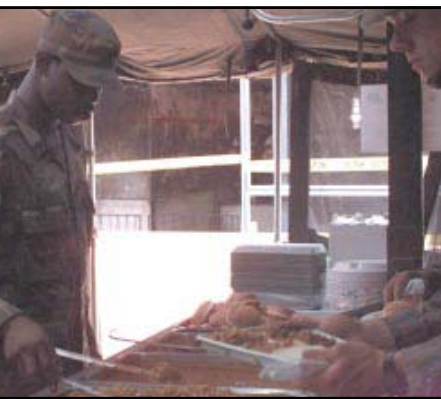
The Defense Logistical Agency is also part of DISCOM.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DISCOM provides the frame work for supplying the task force. Under its umbrella is the general supply and services support section, division ammunition office and the Class VII property book office.

DISCOM soldiers also manage the entire Class IX supply system here.

The Combat Services Support Automation Maintenance Office operates a one-stop computer repair shop at Lukavac. Most computer problems can be fixed on site. The shop has already completed more than 1,000 work orders.

The Mule Skinners are the vital link for supplying Task Force Eagle.



Spc. Bryan Driver

DISCOM cook serves up sloppy joes at the dining facility.



Spc. Bryan Driver

ing the force is a daily mission for DISCOM.



Sgt. Christina Steiner



Sgt. Christina Steiner

Above: Pfc. Brian Haire, HHC DISCOM, fixes a computer at the Combat Services Support Automation Maintenance Office at Lukavac. Left: A Company D, 123rd MSB soldier replaces the heads on a HMMWV engine.



# EOD clears castle ruins

By Spc. WENDY M. FIRESTONE  
203rd MPAD

**GRADACAC** — In the middle of this city, high on a hilltop scattered with wildflowers, sits what was once a beautiful castle.

Like many landmarks in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the structure shows the scars of war.

This landmark, however, contains more than just the outward signs of war.

Local forces used the interior of the castle as an unexploded ordnance storage facility.

The 41st Ordnance Detachment from Fort Bliss, Texas, recently investigated the site.

Two local citizens took soldiers from the 41st and the 20th Ordnance Detachment up the long, stone pathway to the castle, where locked inside a dark room, they found more than 250 pieces of unexploded munitions.

Most of the items had been fired on the city during the war.

"After the city would come under fire, the citizens would go out around town, find the munitions and store them here," said Staff Sgt. Kent Carter, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist.

Site caretakers keep storage areas locked. However, the site remained a hazard, especially to sightseers who wandered the castle grounds, Carter said.

The 41st researched the site for nearly a week to assist with the movement of the ordnance.

The munitions were taken to a remote location where 41st soldiers supervised their explosion.



Spc. Wendy M. Firestone

**Soldiers walk through the gate of Gradacac's ancient castle.**



Capt. Rhonda Reasoner

**Capt. Wayne Skill and BiH Army Master Sgt. Muharem Alic walk through a newly cleared minefield in the zone of separation near Memici.**

## Engineers verify mine removal

By Capt. RHONDA REASONER  
203rd MPAD

**MEMICI** — A loud explosion echoed through the hills and valleys of the zone of separation, just minutes after a patrol disappeared into the heavily vegetated terrain along the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina old defense line.

The patrol's mission was to verify that land mines had, in fact, been removed by BiH Army soldiers as required in the Peace Agreement.

Concerned for the safety of the patrol, 1st Sgt. Joel Crouse, Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion, radioed them to "make sure everything was OK."

Answering the radio transmission, Capt. Wayne Skill, Company A's commander replied, "Everything is OK."

His company had another mission about a half-mile away, just over the hill, monitoring Bosnian Serb soldiers clearing their minefields with small charges of explosives.

After explaining the explosion to BiH Army Master Sgt. Muharem Alic through an interpreter, the patrol continued.

As the patrol hiked through the old war zone, the sounds and concussions over the hill made the surroundings seem all too real.

The patrol stopped at each bunker along the way. Artifacts, such as plates, cups and old clothing were still in place as if soldiers were still there.

At one bunker, a helmet set atop a tree stump overlooking the valley, perhaps as a memorial to a fallen comrade.

At each stop, Alic orientated his hand-drawn map to the bunkers. He then pointed and walked in the direction where he had removed the mines.

After examining an area, the patrol scratched the numbered minefield off the

list and declared it cleared.

"We have to verify the ordnance has been removed from the ground," said Skill. "It will always act as a boundary until all mines are cleared."

Company A has been working with the former belligerents on getting the fields cleared since mid-March.

A total of 15 minefields were verified as cleared that day.

The patrol went out again the following day, and experienced a more strenuous seven-mile venture through the zone of separation.

After climbing up and down the steep hills, the patrol came to a small opening in the trees.

The area was very familiar to Alic. He said he had removed one of his army's "bouncing betty" mines and a trip wire from that exact spot.

The BiH Army soldier relayed a war story through the interpreter.

"He had a friend, who walked through here and tripped the wire and was killed," said interpreter Dragomir "Pixi" Stojkovic.

Once the mine paperwork was complete for that area, the patrol headed off into the trees looking for the next mine field.

Alic said his unit has cleared about 98 percent of the minefields in their area of responsibility and has been working with Company A soldiers to get his work verified.

As the soldiers continue verifying that the minefields are clear, time becomes critical in ZOS operations.

The former warriors have demobilized significant portions of their forces, as required by the Peace Agreement.

"It will be more difficult to carry on the mission, as they lose their skilled soldiers," Skill said.



# Pilots, crews race to replace Cobras

By Sgt. GREG HAGAN  
358th MPAD

CAMP HAMPTON — In just one week, the Apache attack helicopter pilots of Troop C, 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry, 11th Aviation Regiment flew more hours than they would in a normal month back in their home base of Illesheim, Germany.

The unit and its aircraft recently replaced Troops D, E and F, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry and its fleet of old Cobra attack helicopters.

Pilots had to learn their new routes quickly. This meant they spent little time on the ground, while crews spent little time off their feet.

Flight Line Supervisor Sgt. Richard W. Fee of Harlen, Ky., said maintaining the aircraft those the first two weeks required round-the-clock work.

"It was very hectic at first," Fee said. "Because of the increased amount of flight hours our tempo was higher than usual, but we handled it."



Sgt. Greg Hagan

**Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie A. Souder, flight platoon sergeant, inspects the rotors of an Apache at Camp Hampton.**

Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie A. Souder, flight platoon sergeant from Cincinnati agreed.

"The first week, we hit the ground with just a small advance party," he said.

"We put in a lot of long hours maintaining the aircraft and I'm

proud to say they've held up extremely well."

Now that pilots have learned their routes, things have settled down.

But Fee and the other flight sergeants say they continue to work hard to keep the

pilots flying.

"There is a loyalty between the crew chiefs and pilots," he said. "When the aircraft takes off, you know that you've completed your mission and the pilots will be able to complete theirs."

Fee said the Apaches require extra special attention.

"The Apaches are our babies, our main concern," he said.

And with a smile, Fee added, "They're not like a vehicle which you can pull over to the side of the road — they have to be in excellent condition."

With many months of patrols ahead in all kinds of weather, the crew chiefs here can expect to be very busy.

A 20-year veteran, Souder expressed confidence that his soldiers will meet the task. "I'm a seasoned soldier and was trained by the best," Souder said. "I'm going to train and mentor my soldiers as high as I can."

"I'm going to be there for them," he added, "(because) we're all in this together."

## Attorneys available to help with legal matters

By Pfc. JODY JOHNSTON  
358th MPAD

WALKER BASE — Just because soldiers are deployed does not mean they do not need help with certain legal matters.

And that's where a team of attorneys from the Task Force Eagle's Staff Judge Advocate office comes in.

One of those attorneys is Capt. David H. Robertson, trial counselor for 1st Brigade Combat Team. He roves around the 1st Brigade area, helping soldiers and advising them on legal matters.

"I'm here to give legal information to the soldiers and to represent them in their time of need," said Robertson, a 33-year-old Yorktown, Va., native.

"Basically I go out to provide legal assistance and advice for separations, divorces, wills, estates, consumer law, landlord-tenant issues and general powers of attorney," he said.

To avoid a conflict, he can only represent one side of a case.

"For example, if there is a Uniform Code of Military Justice charge brought upon someone, I can only take the side of the person who asks me to represent them."

Robertson will give a soldier a referral to another attorney if he cannot represent him.

Deployed soldiers need SJA lawyers to help them handle a variety of matters, said Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth A. Graybill, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Task Force Eagle Main SJA office.

During the early months of the deployment, many soldiers filed claims through the SJA office for lost laundry, but that situation has been worked out, Graybill said.

While on deployment, some soldiers have been served separation or divorce papers through the mail and they have come to the SJA office for advice. However, Graybill said a survey recently confirmed that these cases are "no higher now than they were in garrison."

The office also handles powers of attorney and other matters.



Pfc. Jody Johnston

**Capt. Dave H. Robertson counsels a 1st Brigade soldier.**

Documents can be notarized at no fee, she said.

The SJA office has a full staff of attorneys, many of whom are available to assist soldiers at base camps throughout the Task Force Eagle area of operation. They include:

- 1st Brigade — Maj. Peter C. Zopler, 552-5852
- 2nd Brigade — Capt. Thomas J. Conte, 551-2207
- 4th Brigade — Capt. Larry C. Burner, 551-4072
- 16th CSG — Capt. Anthony T. Febbo, 558-2652
- DIVARTY — Capt. Timothy Grammel, 551-7331

• Task Force Rear-Lukavac — Capt. Scott E. Stauffer, client services attorney, claims and legal assistance, 551-3597. Also serving in the claims area is Capt. David G. Balmer, 551-3394.

• The team also includes two trial defense lawyers. They are Maj. Meredith Charbula, 558-5834, and Capt. Jan Aldykiewicz, 551-3598.

# MP pulls double duty as HMMWV mechanic



Staff Sgt. Amy Gunnerson

**Spc. John Vicars fixes the electric wiring of a HMMWV.**

**By Staff Sgt. AMY GUNNERSON**  
203rd MPAD

**S**pc. John Vicars has seen 11 countries in his five years as a U.S. Army military policeman. And he's brought his toolbox to each one of them.

That's because Vicars is also a certified auto mechanic. He often donates his spare time to keeping his unit's vehicles in perfect working condition.

Vicars, of 2nd platoon, 212th MP Company, enjoys working on HMMWVs just as much as he enjoys driving them as an MP.

He brings his tools on each deployment because "the Army doesn't supply Craftsman (tools)."

Vicars recently spent a day monitoring radio traffic at an Eagle Base Checkpoint No. 7.

His job was to listen for anything that would require his supervisor's attention.

Rather than just sit idly in his parked HMMWV, he used the time to "rig up the blue light" on the vehicle.

"They get the parts and there's nothing on the truck I can't fix," he bragged.

Staff Sgt. Timothy McDonald, checkpoint NCOIC, says Vicars is as good as advertised.

Thanks to Vicars' efforts, he said, they have the only platoon in the 212th that has all of its vehicles up and running.

Rough roads and lots of driving time by all of the MPs keep the mechanics busy, and Vicars does what he can to relieve the pressure.

When his team works Checkpoint No. 7, he often sees kids playing at the nearby local school.

He says seeing the local children reminds him of his son, whose Polaroid picture he keeps on his HMMWV's dashboard.

On this day, he watched the kids for a moment, carefully propped the Polaroid picture of his son back up and got back to monitoring the radio and wiring the blue light.

## Yugoslavian native returns home as U.S. soldier

**By 1st Lt. AL SWEPSON**  
358th MPAD

KIME BASE — Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR has accomplished something the former Yugoslavian military never could — put Sgt. 1st Class Ekrem (Eric) Katica in the Balkans in uniform.

Nearly a quarter century ago, the U.S. Army linguist with the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion fled his childhood home of Buriti, Yugoslavia, to avoid military service.

"After graduating from high school in 1971, I was ordered to serve in the Yugoslavian military," Katica said. "But I didn't have a choice as to which branch of service to go to. I was kind of sore about that, so I just left the country."

Katica's father was the only person who knew he would not return.

"My father worked in Munich many years and he knew the procedure to seek political asylum," Katica said.

Katica, 18 at the time, went to a town near Nuernberg, Germany that received immigrants seeking entry into the country.

There, he learned he was too young to seek asylum.

"They said either find someplace to go, or they would ship me back," said Katica. "So I went to the U.S. embassy. Two months later I was called by them asking, 'So, when can you fly?' I said 'Tomorrow!' So they gave me a ticket, and the next day I was flying to New York City."

That was 1973.

Today, he is on temporary reassignment from Fort Carson, Colo., where he is a tank system maintenance supervisor with the 1st Battalion, 98th Armor.

Katica lost touch with his family over time.

"I tried to maintain contact for a couple of years by writing letters, but I never received anything back," Katica said.

He began to doubt that he had family living anymore.

"When I was first notified that I would be going to Bosnia, I didn't have any feelings," Katica said. "I didn't know what to think, because I didn't know if I had any family left."

"But after I attended the (language) refresher training course, I was kind of glad I was

selected to come here."

What remains of Katica's family is also glad he is here.

Katica spoke with his brother, Hrستم, a Sarajevo policeman, in December, and met him face-to-face recently.

"My older brother said the old Communist regime didn't like the idea that I left the country illegally, and may have obstructed postal communication between us," Katica said.

Katica was also able to speak with his mother over the phone.

"I hope I get a chance to go to Sarajevo, because she's waiting on me to come see her," Katica said. "She is not able to travel because of her age."

His father passed away in October 1994.

Katica said he didn't know how to bring up the sensitive issue of the war to his brother.

"Hrستم didn't really want to talk about it," he said. "He did tell me that things are hard in Sarajevo. He also told me my oldest sister's son was killed in 1992."

Katica is part Croatian and part Muslim, but his family has chosen to be identified as Muslim.



1st Lt. Al Swebson

**For Sgt. 1st Class Ekrem (Eric) Katica, the deployment to the Balkans has meant returning home.**

"I was taught not to be prejudiced against people because of their religion and skin color," Katica said. "I'm having a hard time realizing that people actually hate each other enough to destroy the whole country."

Katica plans to stay in touch with his family in Sarajevo.

"I'm going to retire in a year, and Colorado Springs is my home," Katica said. "But I don't want to lose my family again."



## PERSONALITIES OF THE WEEK

# Soldier cares to write the very best cards

By **Sgt. CHRISTINA STEINER**  
203rd MPAD

LUKAVAC — How often have you looked for a perfect greeting card for that special someone, only to settle for something less because you couldn't find the right sentiment?

It happens often, especially during deployment, said Spc. Tracy Y. Jordan, a poet who has decided to put her hobby to the test by writing and designing greeting cards.

Jordan, of St. Louis, is a traffic management coordinator with the 15th Movement Control Team, based in Hanau, Germany.

She thinks she has tapped into a new market — one that caters to soldiers, especially those on deployments.

"I realize that when I went to the PX, I couldn't find cards that catered to me — especially me on deployment," Jordan

said. "Those they do have are too lighthearted. They are like 'Hi, Mom ... From Bosnia' with a cartoon wearing camouflage and combat boots. Soldiers want something to reach out — something more personal and maybe without the pictures. I want to write for the military because I understand."

Jordan, who is working on copyright information, has entitled her first collection of poetry Positive Moments Collection 1996.

She signs the cards with Nadroj Inc., which is her last name spelled backward.

"Everyone is doing that," she said. "Oprah does it."

Although she has written poetry for several years and wrote cards for her family and friends, she said she became serious about writing in December 1995 when a soldier asked her to write an engagement card.

"I don't know if the card helped, but she got married,"

Jordan said. "We all have the same thoughts but most of us never write them down."

From then on, Jordan said she decided to begin writing on the Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR experience.

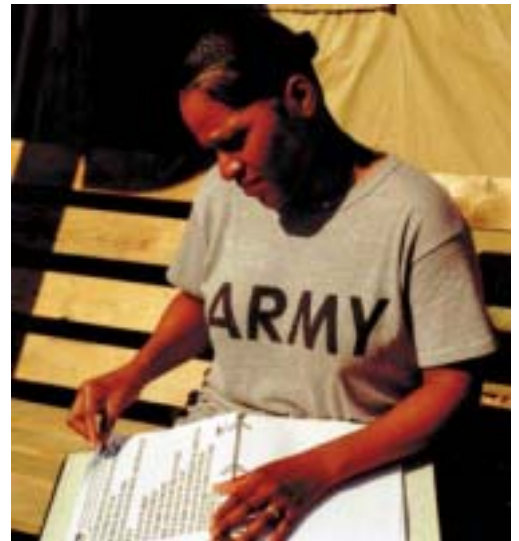
In the two months since she was interviewed and published in the newsletter here, she said potential customers have sought her help.

Her collection, which she keeps in a binder until she decides when to make them into cards, deals with deployment, love, relationships, coping, children and God.

She has written thank-you

notes and poems to some of her favorite companies. Some of her correspondence has landed her some free products.

She said she is most inspired to write at night when it is quiet.



Sgt. Christina Steiner

**Spc. Tracy Y. Jordan leafs through her portfolio of greeting cards.**

## Private first class handles responsibilities of sergeant

By **Spc. GEORGE ROACHE**  
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — Sergeants can earn their stripes by proving they can handle responsibility.

But Pfc. Scott Staples, 20, of Greensboro, N.C., has a shot at showing he can already do a noncommissioned officer's job.

Staples repairs small arms with Company B, 127th Aviation Support Battalion.

When his squad leader departed the Army to get a teaching degree, Staples was left in charge.

It's a responsibility he shoulders with confidence.

"They haven't gotten anybody in to run my job, so I just drive on," he said. "(The squad leader) taught me everything I need to know."

Staples joined the Army a little more than two years ago, thinking he needed to do more with his life than work at a grocery store. He described himself as an average student who liked sports, scouting and playing in a marching band.

If he had gone to college, he said, he knew it wouldn't be to learn.

Visiting a friend's house while an Army recruiter was there changed the direction of his life, he said.

"The Army gave me discipline, taught



Spc. Rob Bishop

**Pfc. Scott Staples repairs an M-60 machine gun at Comanche Base.**

me a lot of responsibility, fitness and not to start something you know you're not going to finish," Staples said.

Being a small arms and towed howitzer repairer also taught him how important his

job was to others' safety.

For example, he did gauging to ensure the head space between a weapon's bolt and its chamber was not so big that a round would blow up in an operator's face.

"They told me in repair school that if I was to gauge a weapon and knowingly do it badly and an operator goes to the range and gets hurt or killed, I could go to jail," Staples said. "But I'm not the type to half-do anything."

"I feel that I am an expert. If I know I did it and did it right, I don't worry," he said.

As part of Company B's Cav Support Team, he fixed .50-caliber machine guns and 25mm feeders for 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry in Budeingen, Germany.

Here, he supports the 4th Air Cavalry Brigade, working mostly on M-16s, M-60s and a few 9mm pistols brought in from battalion arms rooms.

Bolt catch releases on M-16s need the most repairs, Staples said.

They are frequently broken when soldiers drop their weapons, he said.

Staples said that he enjoys working with his hands, taking things apart and putting them back together.

It is a trait he got from his father, a Navy veteran who rebuilt engines, fixed cars and lawn mowers, did outdoor painting and even built a garage and dog houses.

# MWR slate features magic, music, mind games

## Las Vegas Review

"ON STAGE," a fast-paced, Las Vegas style musical review is currently touring Task Force Eagle. Straight from the United States, the show features spectacular dancing, great singing and dazzling costumes.

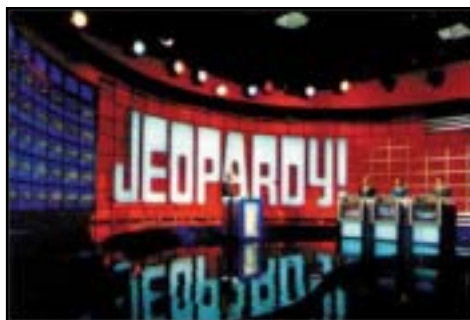
Appealing to people of all ages, "ON STAGE" has a warm outgoing personality that engages a fabulous rapport with their audiences. These performers do not just play music and sing a song...they create an atmosphere.

With shows packed full of dynamic choreography, soaring vocal harmonies, and dazzling costumes and props, "ON STAGE" takes the audience through the full emotion spectrum — from hilarious comedy to heart-touching pathos; from uplifting gospel to get-down sounds.

"ON STAGE" has performed all across the United States, Canada, Europe and the Caribbean.

Performances scheduled include:

- June 2 - Comanche Base
- June 4 - Snead & McGovern
- June 5 - Alicia & Bedrock
- June 6 - Linda & Angela
- June 7 - Demi & Lisa
- June 8 - Eagle Base



## Jeopardy! contestant search

Alex Trabek and his staff will be in the area conducting searching for contestants for the TV game show "Jeopardy!" June 6-8.

Four people from the entire tour, which also includes Hungary, who pass two different tests will be flown, compliments of the USO, to appear on Jeopardy in Los Angeles.

Each session — which lasts about two hours — is designed to test about 150 people. Initial testing is one hour. While tests are scored, Trabek hosts a question and answer session for anyone interested. Following the Q&A session, those passing

the initial test play "Mock Jeopardy" in a separate room as the second phase. The tour's four top scorers will be invited by the show's coordinators to participate on the show at a later time.

Contestant search schedule:

- June 6 - Kime Base
- June 7 - Lodgment Area Demi
- June 8 - Eagle Base

## Abracadabra

Magician "Dr. Bob" arrives Wednesday for an eight-day tour of Task Force Eagle.

This unique Department of Defense Overseas Touring Show is a one-man feast of card tricks and magic, close-up, right before your eyes, with coins, cups and balls.

Performances scheduled include:

- June 3 - Eagle Base
- June 4 - Burke, Tucker & Walker
- June 5 - Alicia & Molly
- June 6 - 1st Brigade area
- June 8 - Eagle Base area
- June 10 - Multinational Brigades
- June 11 - Comanche Base

For more information on MWR activities, soldiers may call Club 21 at Eagle Base at 557-7404.

## First lady thanks men and women of Task Force Eagle

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 13, 1996

Major General William L. Nash, USA  
Commander Task Force Eagle  
Operation Joint Endeavor  
APO, AE 09789

Dear General Nash:

Thank you for the wonderful eagle sculpture. It is a perfect reminder of my memorable visit with the members of Task Force Eagle. Please extend my thanks to the Task Force for their hospitality, their dedication and their hard work to keep the peace in Bosnia.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Hillary Rodham Clinton*  
Hillary Rodham Clinton



Staff Sgt. Randy Yackiel

Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry at Lodgment Area Alicia greet first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton during her March visit to the task force.